

splash!

quick facts on...

# Water Use Permit Renewal Process

## Upper East Coast Basin

JUNE 2003

### The South Florida Water Management District

is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts.

Our Mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply.

Sprinker head's up! Starting this October, the South Florida Water Management District will embark on renewing more than 4,000 irrigation water use permits throughout its 16-county jurisdiction. The District will renew permits in regional phases over the next five years, beginning with the Upper East Coast Basin in October 2003.

The renewal process will consist of the reissuance of the original permit provided no changes in source, irrigated acreage or allocation has occurred since the original permit was issued. If there has been a change in source, land use, allocation or acreage a modification to the permit will be required.

Some permits will be reclassified due to changes in the rules. An Individual permit is now issued for projects which exceed a monthly use of 15 million gallons per month (MGM) and Major General Permits (GPs) are issued for uses between 3 MGM and 15 MGM. Major GPs require the same forms and information as an Individual Permit. Therefore, the renewal process for both will be the same. However, Individual Permits require Governing Board approval whereas Major General Permits require only staff approval.

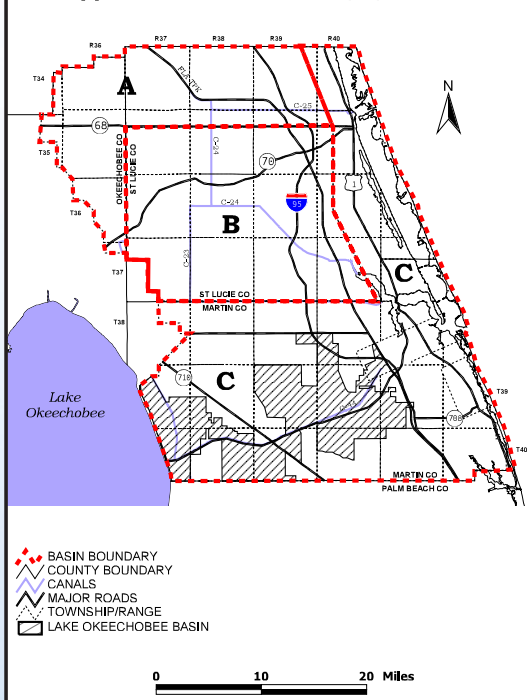
The Upper East Coast (UEC) Basin includes most of Martin and St. Lucie counties and a portion of Okeechobee

County. This basin has been further divided into three sub-basins (A, B and C), which have their own specific expiration dates. The table below identifies the basin expiration date (when your water use permit will expire) for each of the UEC Permit Expiration Sub-Basins (which sub-basin your project is located in). It also shows the basin application date – the date after which applications within a sub-basin must be submitted.

Applications for permit renewal may be made pursuant to Rule 40E-1.610 any time within four months prior to permit expiration. Permittees are encouraged to apply for renewal at least 90 days prior to the expiration date. Once an application is received, a permit will remain in force past the expiration date until final agency action on the application is taken.

Limiting conditions have been updated since the last renewals and require items that may not have been required before. There are two categories of permit conditions that will be applied to water use permits: 1) standard conditions, which contain general information and operational constraints that apply to all uses of water such as monthly pumpage reports and calibration results and 2) special conditions that address specific considerations such as water quality or water level monitoring. Failure to comply with these limiting conditions may result in substantial fines and potentially the revocation of the water use permit and the loss of the right to use water.

### Irrigation Permit Expiration Basins: Upper East Coast Basins A, B, and C



#### Permit Expiration Basin

UEC Basin A

UEC Basin B

UEC Basin C

#### Basin Application Date

October 30, 2003

February 28, 2004

June 30, 2004

#### Basin Expiration Date

February 28, 2004

June 30, 2004

October 30, 2004

**Florida's Water**  
It's Worth Saving

**Who needs a renewal?** Renewals are required by all Individual and Major General Water Use Permits with a use type of irrigation. That can be irrigation of landscape, golf course, nursery, livestock or agricultural.

**Why do I need to get a renewal if I already have a water use permit and is there a grandfathering clause so I don't have to get a renewal?** All Individual and Major General Irrigation permits in the Upper East Coast Basins will expire in 2004. There is no "grandfathering clause" or exception that states that once you have had a permit for a period of time that you do not have to get another one.

**What expiration date applies to my project if my project crosses multiple basin boundaries?** The expiration date for the permit is the date associated with the basin containing the majority of the irrigated acreage. For example, if you have 20 contiguous irrigated acres in UEC Basin A and 75 irrigated acres in UEC Basin B, then you would have the expiration date that applies to UEC Basin B.

**How do I get a renewal?** The District will provide a notice at least 30 days prior to the basin application date applicable to your project. This notice will include information the District currently has regarding the Water Use Permit for your project. If there are no changes from the previously issued permit for your project (i.e., land use, source, allocation), the applicant should verify that all the information is accurate and sign and return the form to the District along with the required renewal fee.

**If changes to the project have occurred such as the addition of wells or pumps, increase in acreage or allocation or change in landuse, can I include these in the renewal process?** The applicant will be sent all the information that the District has for your project. The applicant will be asked to verify all this information. If changes, such as the ones mentioned above, have occurred which require further review by District staff, the applicant will need to submit the information that has changed. If changes are needed, an Individual/ Major General Permit modification must be applied for and the appropriate fee must be submitted. (See web site forms and instructions at [www.sfwmd.gov/org/reg/wupermit](http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/reg/wupermit) or contact District staff for further information.)

**What will the renewal cost and how long is the duration of the permit?** Refer the fee schedule on the Water Use Irrigation Permit Renewals web page at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov). Fees vary based on the allocation amount. The duration of the permit can be up to 20 years depending on the type of permit issued for each project.

**What changes can I expect if all of the permit information has remained the same from the previously issued permit?** Older permits may see changes in both the information

required to be submitted with the renewal application and in the reporting requirements of limiting conditions. According to Section 5.2.9 of the Basis of Review of Water Use Applications, permit applicants must provide the District with results of calibration of the water use accounting method for each well, pump and culvert (if this information has never been submitted to the District) or the results of recalibration every five years (if calibration has been reported to the District). And monthly withdrawals from each well, pump and culvert is reported to the District every three months.

**Under the new rules, my permit qualifies for a Major General Permit (3 million gallons per month through 15 million gallons per month) instead of the previously classified Individual Permit. How does this affect the renewal process?** The renewal process for a Major General Permit and an Individual Permit is the same except that for a Major General Water Use Permit there is a shorter review time and the permit is issued by the staff. Visit [www.sfwmd.gov/org/reg/wupermit](http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/reg/wupermit) for more information on the different types of permits.

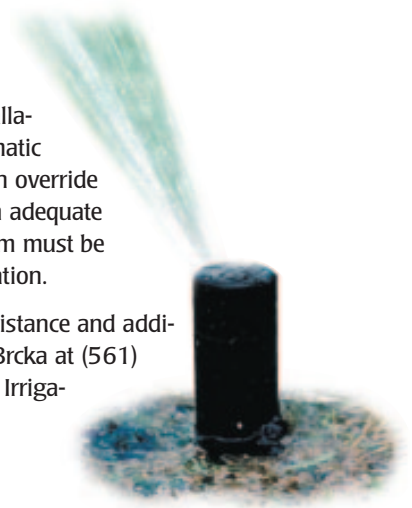
**Who is required to use reclaimed water and who do I contact to find out if it is available for my project?**

According to Section 3.2.3 of the Water Use Basis of Review (BOR), "when reclaimed water is readily available it must be used in place of higher quality water sources, unless it is demonstrated by the applicant that its use is either not environmentally, economically or technically feasible." Agricultural uses involving the growth of edible fruits and vegetables are NOT required to utilize reclaimed water due to potential health issues. All other uses must inquire about the availability of utilizing reclaimed water for their project. Your local Water Utility or Treatment facility can be contacted to inquire whether reclaimed water is available for your project.

**Do I need to provide a water conservation plan and what information do I need to provide if required?** All Individual

Water Use Permits for landscape or golf course irrigation projects need to develop a conservation program including the use of xeriscape principles and the installation of rain sensor devices, automatic switches or other method that can override the operation of the system when adequate rainfall has occurred. This program must be submitted with the permit application.

**Where can I get help?** For assistance and additional information, contact Chad Brcka at (561) 682-2816 or visit the Water Use Irrigation Permit Renewal web page at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov).



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**sfwmd.gov**

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**[www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov)**

**MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 24680**  
**West Palm Beach, FL 33416-4680**

## SERVICE CENTERS

**Big Cypress Basin**  
 941-597-1505  
**Broward**  
 954-713-3200  
**Fort Myers**  
 941-338-2929 or 800-248-1201  
**Lower West Coast**  
 239-289-2739 or 800-464-5067

**Martin/St. Lucie**  
 561-223-2600 or 800-250-4100  
**Miami/Dade**  
 305-377-7274 or 800-250-4300  
**Okeechobee**  
 863-462-5260 or 800-250-4200  
**Orlando**  
 407-858-6100 or 800-250-4250